

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /115 W
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R 221645Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9381

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBSSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS LIMA 2275

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, PARM, PE, CI, BL

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON SECURITY MATTERS
IN IMPROMPTU REMARKS TO PRESS MARCH 21, PRIME MINISTER
EDGARDO MERCADO MADE ROLLOING COMMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH
SECURITY MATTERS:

A. MERCADO ANNOUNCED THAT ARMORED DIVISION (NOTE: SOME
PAPERS STATE ARMS "SCHOOL") WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO THE
SOUTH. NOTING THAT THIS UNIT NOW QUARTERED IN URBAN AREA
(LIMA) WHICH RENDERS OPERATIONS AND TRAINING DIFFICULT,
MERCADO DID NOT SPECIFY NEW LOCATION OF ARMORED DIVISION
BUT SAID IT COULD BE IN AREA OF MAJES (AREQUIPA). (SEE
IR 6876006574, BEING PREPARED ON SAME SUBJECT).

B. ASKED TO COMMENT ON REPORTS OF BANZER-PINOCHEZ TALKS
AT BRASILIA ON POSSIBLE BOLIVIAN OUTLET TO SEA, MERCADO CALLED
ATTENTION FIRST TO CONFLICTING NATURE OF NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS
OF THESE TALKS. HE THEN SAID GOP POSITION FAVORS BOLIVIAN
OUTLET AND THAT THIS WAS CLEARLY EXPRESSED DURING BANZER VISIT
TO PERU. AT SAME TIME MERCADO UNDERLINED FACLETHAT 1929 TREATY
OF ANCON WITH CHILE REQUIRES GOP CONSENT TO ANY CHILEAN CESSION
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OF TERRIROTIES ACQUIRED DURING COURSE OF WAR OF PACIFIC.

CHILE IS OF COURSE FREE TO CEDE ANY OTHER OF ITS TERRITORIES.

C. MERCADO SAID HE HAD NOTEAD LA PRENSA ARTICLE ALLEGING CHILEAN INTENTION EMBARK ON WAR OF EXPANSION AS IN 1879, BUT THAT WHILE SOME MEN SUCH AS SECRETARY KISSINGER SEEK PEACE, OTHERS SEEK TO CREATE CONFLICT BECAUSE ARMS SALES IS GOOD BUSINESS. HE CONDEMNED EFFORTS TO "BALKANIZE" AND UNDERMINE

UNITY OF LATIN AMERICA IN ITS STRUGGLE AGAINST DEPENDENCY AND UNDERDEVELOPMENT.

D. PRESIDENT VELASCO'S ARMS MORATORIUM PROPOSAL WILL BE ANALYZED BY ANDEAN PACT COUNTRIES WHICH AS A GROUP WILL DECIDE ON BEST COURSES OF ACTION. HE STATED THIS IN CONNECTION WITH QUESTION ON PINOCHET'S CALL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION TO VERIFY AMOUNT OF ARMS EXISTING IN PARTICIPATING STATES.

E. MERCADO SAID CHILEAN CALL UP OF RESERVES IS INTERNAL MATTER AND NORMAL IN ALL COUNTRIES.
BELCHER

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